

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the original Title on page 1 in its entirety and replace with the following replacement title as follows:

STRETCHABLE TRANSFER CONVEYER, METHOD OF STRETCHING TRANSFER CONVEYOR, AND STRETCHABLE GUIDE DEVICE FOR MOVABLE ARTICLE

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 9-23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In order to solve the aforementioned problems and in order to attain its object, the present invention in a first aspect provides a stretchable transfer conveyer wherein a pair of guide rails respectively provided with guide surfaces for guiding both side surfaces of a transferred article in a transfer direction are extended in the transfer direction and wherein flexible endless belts for supporting lower surfaces at both sides of the transferred article, whose both side surfaces are guided along the guide surfaces, to transfer the transferred article in the transfer direction are drivingly connected to a drive device and are carried along plural rotational members to be circulated. The conveyor includes ~~In the conveyer,~~ a stretching mechanism ~~[[is]]~~ provided at one end of each of the guide rails to be stretchable in the transfer direction; a stretchable guide surface provided at a facing surface of the stretching mechanism ~~[[is]]~~ and formed into a flat surface continuous and even with the guide surface regardless of the stretched position of the stretching mechanism; and plural rotational members ~~are~~ provided on the facing surface of the stretching mechanism for circulatably supporting the endless belt.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, line 24 to page 4, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

With this construction, since the layout and the displacement of apparatus can be done with the space from guide rails next thereto or the like being widened by contracting the stretching mechanism provided on the end of each guide rail, the danger of contact or collision with any adjoining apparatus is minimized, so that work becomes easier to shorten work time. Then, the space between the adjoining transfer conveyers can be adjusted to several millimeter wide by stretching the stretching mechanism in the state that the layout of plural apparatus is completed. At this time, since the stretchable guide surface being a flat surface continuous and even with the guide surface is formed at the facing surface of each stretching mechanism regardless of any stretched position of each stretching mechanism, the transferred article transferred by the endless belts can be guided smoothly at each of the both side surfaces thereof along the guide surface and the stretchable guide surface.

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 12-20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, according to the present invention in a second aspect, in the stretchable transfer conveyer improved as aforementioned in the first aspect, the stretching mechanism comprises an adjuster member mounted on an end of each guide rail to be movable in the transfer direction and provided with an adjuster guide surface being a flat surface even with the guide surface; and a complementary member insertable into a space which is made between the guide surface of the guide rail and the adjuster guide surface of the adjuster member when the adjuster member is moved in the transfer direction and provided with a complementary guide surface for forming the stretchable guide surface together with the adjuster guide surface.

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, line 21 to page 5, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

With this construction, when the adjuster member mounted on the end portion of each guide rail is adjusted with respect to its position in the transfer direction, the complementary member is inserted into the space made between the guide surface of each guide rail and the adjuster guide surface of the adjuster member, whereby the complementary guide surface formed on the complementary member and the adjuster guide surface form the stretchable guide surface which is a flat surface continuous and even with the, guide surface. Thus, in addition to the aforementioned effects of the invention in the first aspect, it is possible to provide the stretchable transfer conveyer simplified in construction and low in cost.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 4-13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, according to the present invention in a third aspect, in the stretchable transfer conveyer improved ~~second~~ as aforementioned in the second aspect, the complementary member is mounted on the end of the guide rail to be movable in a complementary direction intersecting with the transfer direction with the complementary guide surface defining a flat surface continuous and even with the guide surface; and the adjuster member and the complementary member are joined at respective joint surfaces which are inclined relative to the transfer direction as well as to the complementary direction whereby the adjuster guide surface and the complementary guide surface are jointed along the respective joint surfaces to define the stretchable guide surface as a continuous and even flat surface.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 14-23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

With this construction, when the adjuster member mounted on the end portion of each guide rail is adjusted with respect to its position in the transfer direction, the complementary member mounted on the end portion of each guide rail is moved in the complementary direction, and the complementary guide surface formed on the complementary member is connected to the guide surface of the guide rail and the adjuster guide surface of the adjuster member through the flat surface even and continuous therewith. Thus, in addition to the aforementioned effects of the invention in the second aspect, it is possible in a simplified construction to make the smooth stretchable guide surface as the flat surface continuous and even with the guide surface of the guide rail.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 24 to page 6, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the present invention in a fourth aspect, in the stretchable transfer conveyer improved ~~third~~ as aforementioned in the third aspect, the adjuster member has mounted thereon a first rotational member for winding therearound one end of a horizontally traveling portion of the endless belt and a second rotational member for downwardly bending the endless belt run out from the first rotational member; the complementary member has mounted thereon a third rotational member for horizontally bending the endless belt run out from the second rotational member and a fourth rotational member for roughly vertically bending the endless belt bent horizontally; and the guide rail has mounted thereon a fifth rotational member for horizontally bending the endless belt run out from the fourth rotational member.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 16 to page 7, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the present invention in a fifth aspect, in the stretchable transfer conveyer improved fourth as aforementioned in the fourth aspect, the complementary direction is a vertical direction perpendicular to the transfer direction; the adjuster member and the complementary member are joined at the joint surfaces which are inclined 45 degrees relative to the transfer direction; the adjuster guide surface and the complementary guide surface are joined along the joint surfaces to constitute the stretchable guide surface; the adjuster member has mounted thereon the first rotational member for winding therearound one end of the horizontally traveling portion of the endless belt and the second rotational member for downwardly bending the endless belt run out horizontally from the first rotational member; the complementary member has mounted thereon the third rotational member for horizontally bending the endless belt run out from the second rotational member and the fourth rotational member for roughly vertically bending the endless belt bent horizontally; the guide rail has mounted thereon the fifth rotational member for horizontally bending the endless belt run out from the fourth rotational member; and the third rotational member is moved as being restrained by a guide vertically provided on the adjuster member and another guide horizontally provided on the complementary member.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 16-20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the present invention in a sixth aspect, ~~in any one of the stretchable transfer conveyers improved third to fifth~~ as aforementioned in the first aspect, further includes a feed device ~~is provided~~ for moving the adjuster member in the transfer direction;

and means ~~is provided~~ for moving the complementary member in the complementary direction in linkage relation with the movement of the adjuster member.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 1-3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the present invention in a seventh aspect, in ~~any one of~~ the stretchable transfer conveyers improved as aforementioned in the first aspect, the transferred article is a printed board or a board for mounting electronic components thereon.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 9 to page 9, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In an eighth aspect the ~~[[The]]~~ present invention provides a method of stretching a transfer conveyer wherein a pair of guide rails respectively provided with guide surfaces for guiding both side surfaces of a transferred article in a transfer direction are extended in the transfer direction and wherein flexible endless belts for supporting lower surfaces at both sides of the transferred article, whose both side surfaces are guided along the guide surfaces, to transfer the transferred article in the transfer direction are drivingly connected to a drive device and are carried along plural rotational members to be recirculated. The method is ~~practiced by~~ includes mounting an adjuster member, which is provided with an adjuster guide surface being a flat surface even with the guide surface, on one end of each guide rail to be movable in the transfer direction; ~~[[by]]~~ providing a complementary member, which is provided with a complementary guide surface being a flat surface even with the guide surface, to be movable in the complementary direction intersecting with the transfer direction with the guide surface and the complementary guide surface defining a continuous and even flat surface; and ~~[[by]]~~ joining the adjuster member and the complementary member at

respective joint surfaces which are inclined relative to the transfer direction and the complementary direction so that a stretchable guide surface is formed by joining the adjuster guide surface and the complementary guide surface along the joint surfaces to define the continuous and even flat surface.

Please insert the following text at page 9, after line 9:

In a ninth aspect of the present invention, there is provided a stretchable guide device for a movable article including a pair of guide rails respectively provided with guide surfaces for guiding both side surfaces of the movable article in a moving direction; an adjuster member mounted on one end of each of the guide rails to be movable in the moving direction of the movable article and provided with an adjuster guide surface which is a flat surface even with the guide surface; and a complementary member insertable into a space which is made between the guide surface of the guide rail and the adjuster guide surface of the adjuster member when the adjuster member is moved in the moving direction, and provided with a complementary guide surface for forming a stretchable guide surface together with the adjuster guide surface.

With this construction, since the layout and the displacement of apparatus can be done with the space from guide rails next thereto or the like being widened by contracting the adjuster member provided on the end of each guide rail, the danger of contact or collision with any adjoining apparatus is minimized, so that it becomes easier to shorten a work time. Then, the space between the adjoining transfer conveyers can be adjusted to several millimeter wide by stretching the adjuster member in the state that the layout of plural apparatus is completed. At this time, when the adjuster member mounted on the end portion of each guide rail is adjusted with respect to its position in the moving direction of the movable article, the complementary member is inserted into the space made between the

guide surface of each guide rail and the adjuster guide surface of the adjuster member, whereby the complementary guide surface formed on the complementary member and the adjuster guide surface form the stretchable guide surface which is a flat surface continuous and even with the guide surface, and the movable article can be smoothly guide at each of its both side surfaces along the guide surface and the and the stretchable guide surface. Thus, it is possible to provide the stretchable guide device for the movable article simplified in construction and low in cost.